

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 IO-13

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MAPR, MOPS, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: RADIO/TV COVERAGE OF KOREA AUG 20

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF AUG 19-20 US RADIO/TV
COVERAGE OF KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS.

2. MARVIN KALB (CBS-TV EVE NEWS AUG 19) SAID ADMIN
PUZZLED BY PANMUNJON INCIDENT. NOTED NO SIGN YET US PLANS
MIL COUNTER ACTION. SAID WSAG MET AGAIN 8/19. REPORTED
HAK MET WITH TOP US DIP/MIL OFFICIALS AT WH BEFORE
FLYING KC FOR GOP CONVENTION, AND CONFERRED WITH PRCLO
CHIEF HUANG CHEN, PRESUMABLY ASKING PEKING URGE CAUTION
ON NK. OBSERVED INCIDENT CAME AMID SIGNS NK MAY BE
PROVOKING DIP CRISIS -- AUG 5 NK CHARGED US/SK HAD
COMPLETED WAR PREPARATIONS; AUG 15 KIM IL SUNG TOLD
TITO COULD NOT ATTEND COLOMBO CONF BECAUSE OF "DETERIORATED
SITUATION ALONG DMZ."

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3. BARRY SCHWEID (WTOP RADIO, EVE AUG 19) REPORTED

WSAG HELD BACK-TO-BACK MEETINGS ABOUT TENSIONS IN KOREA, CHAIRED BY HAK. SAID HAK ALSO MET HUANG CHEN, ASKED HIM COUNSEL NK CAUTION. ALSO SAID DOS IN CONSULTATION WITH NUMBER ALLIED GOVTS, BUT WHAT DIP ACTION, IF ANY, MAY BE TAKEN NOT CLEAR. CITED DOS OFFICIALS WHO WANT, AT LEAST, THOSE RESPONSIBLE PUNISHED.

4. NBC'S HARTZ/BERGER INTERVIEWED HAK IN KC ON 8/20 "TODAY SHOW", DEVOTED MOST TIME TO GOP FOPOLICY PLANK, DETENTE. TOWARD CLOSE HARTZ SOLICITED HAK COMMENT ON "DISTURBING DEVELOPMENTS" KOREA, INCLUDING ALERT OF FORCES BOTH SIDES. HAK REVIEWED FACTS OF INCIDENT LABELED IT "PREMEDITATED ACT OF MURDER." DECLARED NOTHING JUSTIFIES ACT, WHATEVER MERITS OF DISPUTE ABOUT TREE, AND US ABSOLUTELY CANNOT AND WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS. ASKED IF AMERICANS SHOULD BE ALARMED BY DEVELOPMENTS, HAK REPLIED WE CANNOT PERMIT PRINCIPLE BE ESTABLISHED THAT AMERICANS CAN SIMPLY BE ASSAULTED WITH IMPUNITY WHEREVER SOME DICTATOR OR AGGRESSIVE COUNTRY DECIDES SCORE POINTS. SO DEPENDS -- WHAT IT INDICATES ABOUT NK INTENTIONS. ALSO DEPENDS WHETHER WE GET SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO OUR DEMANDS FOR EXPLANATIONS AND REPARATIONS. SAID WE ARE STUDYING OPTIONS. DECLINED DISCUSS SPECIFIC NUMBERS, BUT SAID CERTAIN REINFORCEMENTS SENT TO DISCOURAGE ANY NK ATTEMPT ESCALATE, AND HAVE INCREASED READINESS OUR FORCES. HABIB

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